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Date: October 4, 2007

Signature: _____

(Quyen Nguyen)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/798,739
Confirmation No.: 6427
Filing Date: March 10, 2004
Inventor(s): George D. HERMANN et al.
Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR USE IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE
APPROXIMATION OF MUSCLE AND OTHER TISSUE
Examiner: M. Ryckman
Group Art Unit: 3734

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated April 4, 2007 for which a response is due on July 4, 2007. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 3-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to October 4, 2007. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.